



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/719,719	11/21/2003	Don L. Bouressa	SRC014P	3174
38351	7590	02/06/2007	EXAMINER	
STEPHEN R. CHAPMAN P.O. BOX 168 CLEMSON, SC 29633-0168			POPE, DARYL C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2612	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/06/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/719,719	BOURESSA, DON L.
	Examiner DARYL C. POPE	Art Unit 2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/21/2003.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

ART REJECTION:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ricketts(5,218,344).

-- In considering claim 1, the claimed subject matter that is met by Ricketts includes:

- 1) the at least one first card reader means is met by the stationary transceivers(12);
- 2) the base computer is met by the main computer(11);
- 3) the plurality of second card reader means is met by the transceivers(12) designated (B,C) as seen in figure 4;
- 4) the portable computer being in communication with the base computer is met by the local computer(15) in communication with the main computer as seen in figure 1.

- **Ricketts does not show:**

- 1) the second card reader means being capable of wireless communication with the portable computer;

2) the portable computer being capable of processing, visually displaying, and generating printed displays of census data such that evacuation status of a facility is determined in real time.

With regards to the wireless communication of the second card reader means, Ricketts states that although connection between the transceivers and the computers are via hard wiring, Ricketts does suggest implementation of other communication means i.e. wireless communications(see: column 8 lines 28-33). Use of wireless communication means for communicating information is well known in the art, and therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate wireless communication between the transceivers(12) and the computer(15), since this would have reduced the cost of wiring in the facility by allowing wireless communication.

With regards to the communication between the portable computer and the base computer, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to enable the portable computer(15) to process, display, and generate printed displays of census data transmitted from the base computer, since Ricketts already teaches that the computers include conventional PC's comprising processors, monitors, keyboards, and printers(see: column 6, lines 48-53), and as well that the main computer performs processing of ingress and egress data for the purpose of determining count data. Therefore, since the local computers(15), are an extension of the main computer(11), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate all of the functions of the main

computer into the local computers, so as to allow functions of the main computer to extend throughout the facility, without having the actual main computer at every location.

-- With regards to claim 2, the examiner takes Official Notice that in the computer art, use of computers which communicate via telephone transmitters is well known in the art, and therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate telephone transmitters into the computers(11,15) of Ricketts, since Ricketts already suggests implementation of other suitable communication means, and therefore telephone transmitters would have provided a convenient and reliable means for allowing communication between components in the system.

-- With regards to claims 3-8, the facility being an office building, educational facility, health care facility, and vehicle including a ship is met, since the system of Ricketts is utilized in a hospital, school, correctional facility, or the like. Furthermore, it would have been obvious that the Ricketts suggests implementation in a vehicle including a ship, since a military ship would have constituted a military installation. As well, the facility being an office building would have also been met, since some correctional facilities constitute office buildings as well.

-- With regards to claim 9, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to allow the computer to be capable of generating printed images of schematic diagrams of the facility, since the system already desires to monitor the location of units as seen by the schematic diagram of figure 2, and therefore

Art Unit: 2612

allowing the computer to print out those schematics would have allowed location information of specific personnel to be displayed via printed material.

-- With regards to claims 10-11, although not specifically shown by Ricketts, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate independent power supplies into the computers and card reader means, since this would have prevented any single power outage to affect the entire system. Furthermore, the examiner takes official notice that in the power supply art, use of solar panels and drip charge devices for recharging and supplying power to devices is well known in the art, and therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate solar panels and drip charge devices into the computers and card reader means, since this would have alleviated the need for constant replacement of power supplies for the devices in the system.

-- Claim 12 recites subject matter that is met as discussed in claim 1 above.

-- Claim 13 recites subject matter that is met as discussed in claim 1 above.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DARYL C. POPE whose telephone number is 571-272-2959. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH 9:00-7:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MIKE HORABIK can be reached on 571-272-3068. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9139 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Daryl C. Pope

June 23, 2006

DARYL C POPE
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2612

